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24 JAN 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Agency Relations With News Media

1. This memorandum is for information only; particular attention is called to suggestions contained in paragraph 4.

2. Reference is made to memorandum dated 24 January 1964 from the Executive Officer to the Deputy Director for Support requesting specific and concise views on the subject of Agency relations with news media. Prior to the receipt of the referenced memorandum, an assessment of the effects on the Agency resulting from the recent publicity caused by the news release on the Soviet Union's economy had been made and is attached (Attachment I) for information purposes.

3. The implications of this publicity may be summarized as follows:

a. The open news release or conference, particularly with Agency attribution, resulted in unfavorable reactions from the public information media and their representatives.

b. The protection of Agency sources and methods was endangered. The publicity resulted not only in the Agency's estimate being challenged, but also in requests for the details of CIA's calculations.

c. To a certain degree, the morale of employees has suffered.

d. Public reaction, particularly unfavorable, was not evidenced in the receipt of mail, telephone calls, and visitors to the Agency. There was, however, some unfavorable public reaction as evidenced by letters to the editors.

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e. Congressional criticisms and requests for the establishment of a select Joint Committee on Central Intelligence received new and additional impetus.

f. Security liaison representatives with other government agencies reported a limited amount of feed-back resulting from the publicity.

4. The following suggestions are submitted for your consideration:

a. [REDACTED]

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pertaining to Personal Security: Compartmentation be re-issued at this time. The reissuance of these Notices, which expired on 1 January 1964, should offset any possible let down in personal security resulting from the recent publicity and should improve employee morale which may have been damaged by the recent public disclosure.

b. Each Office should make provision for periodically bringing [REDACTED] "Release of Agency Information to Public Information Media or Representatives Thereof," to the attention of all individuals under the supervision of such Office.

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R. L. Bannerman  
Director of Security

Attachments:

I, II and III.

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